

SERVICE JOBS SAFE; HOLDERS ARE NOT

Republicans Change Plans in Fight on McCall Commission.

CRAM ON STAND TO-DAY

Robert C. Wood and J. Sergeant Cram are scheduled to testify to-day before the Thompson committee, which will resume its investigation of the Public Service Commission at the City Hall. When the examination of Commissioner Wood, begun last Saturday, is ended Mr. Cram will take the stand.

It looks as if the Governor, a majority of the committee and other Republican leaders in the Legislature have already decided to wipe out the commission as now constituted, but it is indicated that two changes which were originally contemplated will not be done. The law under which the commission operates will not be changed materially and the job of constructing the new subway will not be transferred to the Board of Estimate.

The statute known as the public service law, drawn under the direction of Mr. Hughes, has been found under scrutiny to be what some of the members of the committee describe as a "perfect law." The committee came to New York with the idea that it was full of flaws, particularly weak as to the opportunity it gave the commission to enforce orders against corporations. This impression has been dissipated, it was said last night.

Ways to Oust Commissioners.

It was pointed out yesterday that two ways were open to those who wanted to get rid of the present Commissioners—"for no reason or other purposes," as Senator Poley phrased it on Friday. Formal charges can be made and the Governor can use his power of removal after ten days and a hearing, or the Legislature can pass a ripper law. Between these two methods there has been no decision as yet. Some of the legislators are objecting to the ripper method as being too likely to involve the party in criticism. The idea of transferring the commission's constructive work to the Board of Estimate has been abandoned because the committee has become convinced that it would be too big a wrench and that the Estimate Board is already swamped with labor. Arguments against such a transfer are set forth in a letter which William J. Schieffelin in behalf of the Citizens Union sent to Senator George F. Thompson, chairman of the investigating committee, yesterday.

"If the situation were that of twenty years ago with the city about to start the construction of its rapid transit lines," Mr. Schieffelin wrote, "it might be logical to require that the work be entrusted to the city authorities. Certain conditions have arisen, however, under the dual contracts into which the city has entered which would render such a change at this time not only inadvisable but necessarily fatal."

Disaster in Dividing Control.

"These contracts involve not only the construction of new lines but the reconstruction of practically all the elevated roads in the city. During this period of reconstruction service must be maintained and its regulation and control coordinated with the construction work. From the standpoint of the city's finances also we believe that a disaster would result from the dual control. Under the dual contracts, until the lines are self-supporting any increased cost of operation must be borne by the city. The amount available for interest and sinking fund payments on the construction bonds which have been issued by the city is at the present time already financially strained through its expenditures for what is practically a reconstruction of its entire rapid transit system. It is important that there should be no overregulation in the early operating period. It is obvious that a separate State board of a single State board not responsible to the city might increase the cost of operation as to very seriously embarrass the city financially."

As to the capacity of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to take over in midstream, so to speak, this enormous construction enterprise, it is pointed out that the board is not equipped to handle it without detriment to its program. We can simply say that those who are in touch with the administration know how seriously overburdened the board already is with work which is constantly increasing and will continue to increase until a new city charter simplifies our municipal government. We believe that to increase the strain already on the board by adding a load of this magnitude could only result disastrously to the city."

NEW THINGS ON THE FILMS.

Little Princess Theatre Adds Movies to Its Experiences.

The Little Princess Theatre is rapidly acquiring experience. It has passed through various stages, but it never had a moving picture on its somewhat easy program until Monday night. Then "Hypocrites" was transferred from the Longacre Theatre. This latest importation from the Western studios emphasizes one of the present tendencies of the moving picture industry. It is evident that they have got to the point at which the nude figure is regarded as an important aid to success.

Little Gaiety of the Ladies, more familiar as Gaby Deslye, and Little Henry of the Players are the principal figures in "Her Triumph," which was disclosed at the Strand Theatre Monday night to the accompaniment of music and war pictures.

The Village Theatre is to have some special pictures on Friday, with Ralph Ince as Abraham Lincoln. Monday the celebration of anniversary week at this theatre began. "Four Headquarters," "A Daughter's Strange Inheritance," "The Wrong Girl" and "The Hypochondriac" were the new picture plays which the audiences enjoyed.

Plays and Players.

Ferne Rogers, who was forced to resign from the Drury Lane Theatre in London recently because of alleged pro-German remarks, will appear at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre next week. Columbia night was celebrated at "To-night's Night" at the Shubert Theatre last evening when about 300 members of the junior class of the university attended the performance.

"A Busy Day" is the title of a farce about to be presented by H. H. Frazer in New York. In the cast will be Herbert Corbell, Byron Readley, Ralph Morgan, May Vokey, Elizabeth Nelson, Rose Winter and Arthur P. Hyman.

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THE WEEK'S CHANGES.

Plays That Were New on Various New York Stages.

The West End Theatre is being used this week to test a new theory of the theatre managers. This is based on the presumption that there is interest in the moving pictures. There is thought to be a desire for more of the stock companies which were so depleted in popularity but a short time ago by the picture plays.

So Jessie Bonstelle, who is experienced in the conduct of these stock companies, came Monday to take possession of the West End Theatre with a stock company. Miss Bonstelle is an experienced actress, as she showed last night by her performance of the role created by Blanche Bates in "Nobody's Widow," which was the opening play of the new season.

The French Theatre, which has been spreading its evangel of culture at the Toy Theatre in Boston, has returned to its native land in the City of the Century. Monday night the second half of its season began there with a performance of "Le Maître de Forges," Georges Onnet's romantic melodrama, which, although as harmless as the "Billboard Rose," has maintained its popularity during a long period. The first night audience enjoyed its sentimental passages and lost itself in the working out of the popular sentiment that true hearts are more than Norman blood.

Sam Bernard and the immortal *Hogbein* have become almost synonymous. They were both on way Monday night at the Bronx Opera House, where "The Belle of Bond Street" came there for a brief season. It is said that Mr. Bernard intends to retire from active work, playing only occasional performances.

VAUDEVILLE AND BURLESQUE.

Tragedy and Comedy This Week at the Twice a Day Theatres.

Nazimova continues at the Palace Theatre this week in her big successful sketch, "War Brides," which is drawing capacity audiences. Ina Claire is the comedy headliner in songs and dances and impersonations.

The fourth of the series of travesties to be produced at Hammerstein's is taking place this week in "Celine Tomahawks' Cabin," a Hebraic travesty on "Celine Tomahawks' Cabin." An star cast, including Jack Curtis, Lillian Shaw, George Fisher and Harry Green, Billy Sharp, Tom Smith, Leo Bary, David Granville, Jack Craft and Bessie Gros, Albert Donnelly, Marzella's birds and Tiny Turek, are other leading acts.

At the Alhambra Theatre this week Grace La Rue, who has just ended her engagement at Hammerstein's Victoria, is heard in some attractive songs. Minnie Dupree offers her latest dramatic success, "Broad Upon the Waters." Ben Welch, a popular burlesque comedian, is at the Columbia Theatre this week with a big organization presenting "Five Wives" and "Fives" and two one act satires interspersed with several vaudeville specialties.

BROOKLYN PLAYS.

Novelities Introduced There This Week From New York.

The doors of the Montauk Theatre were recently closed with the announcement that it would not be opened until there was available an attraction worthy the name of the playhouse. Last Monday night one was found in Maudie Adams and there have been two large audiences to welcome this popular actress back to the Montauk Theatre. She is appearing in "The Legend of Leonora," as well as in "The Ladies' Shakespeare," which is also the work of J. M. Harris. It is a fantastic perversion of "The Taming of the Shrew."

Brooklyn has never heard such fine singing in opera as "The Lilac Domino" is just now providing for the all second week burlesque. "The Cabaret Girls" is the attraction to be seen there this week, and it is drawing large audiences.

New Winter Garden Show.

RUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 9.—The new Winter Garden production "Maid in America" had the first showing here tonight at the Tech Theatre.

After the Saturday performances the company will return to New York to open at the Winter Garden the week of February 15.

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CONFIDENT PUBLIC IS AGAINST FULL CREW

Railroad Managers Expect Same Sentiment in East as in Missouri.

COUNT ON LABOR VOTE

The movement of the railroads of New Jersey and Pennsylvania to take their case in the matter of full crew laws to the people for repeal has been brought about very largely as the result of the successful appeal of the railroads to the people of Missouri, where by direct referendum vote the full crew laws were voted out of existence.

Railroad officials pointed to the Missouri case yesterday as the strongest argument for confidence that as soon as the public realizes the uselessness and expense upon it of the full crew laws they will be done away with. Missouri, said railroad men, was one of the strongest anti-railroad States in the country until a campaign of education brought an overwhelming victory in the public verdict on full crew laws.

"The reference of this case to the people," said A. J. Stone, vice-president of the Erie Railroad, "is a new thing in railroad efforts, is simply a reflection of the times. The railroads have confidence in the judgment of the public. They are working in this presentation of the case to the people in a manner perfectly open and above board. They feel that the result will be the same as in Missouri. By getting the case before the voter, appealing to his common sense, giving him the facts and letting him decide the question the railroads feel well assured of success. It is unfortunate there is not a referendum here."

"The railroads aim to proceed along educational lines by publishing the facts and by personal contact. The question also will be taken up by the officers of the railroads with their employees and patrons."

"The object is not to go to the legislators directly, though opportunities to lay the case before them will not be missed. The program, however, is to put the case directly to the voter, through whom in turn the legislators will be influenced. In the past the legislative representatives of the people have interpreted public sentiment as being opposed to the railroads in the full crew laws. The railroads believe, however, that they are trying to reflect the sentiment of the people when they know what this sentiment is and the railroads believe public sentiment will be against full crew laws."

"Responsiveness to the labor vote has much influence. It is my opinion, while a part of the labor vote is satisfied with the full crew laws, a large part is dissatisfied and that the weight of labor opinion now is against the laws." Mr. Stone estimated that the full crew laws of New Jersey and New York States in a little over a year cost the Erie about \$700,000.

The campaign in New York State will be taken up a little later than in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In Indiana and Ohio similar campaigns are in operation. It is estimated that the New York State law has cost the New York Central about \$1,000,000.

"In the case of the Lehigh Valley the amount expended in the payment of extra and unnecessary men during the last year if capitalized at 5 per cent would have eliminated 10 per cent of the grade crossings on this road," said President E. F. Thompson of the Lehigh Valley yesterday. "It is the most striking example of unnecessary and economic waste that has ever been presented, and I am certain if the public understood it they would be as overwhelmingly against it as they were in Missouri."

"The most experienced and able trainmen, in private conversation, are willing to admit that it is of no benefit to the railroad or to themselves, and there can be no question that it is a serious detriment to the men themselves, as a man who draws salary for services that have no value soon loses his respect for labor and even for his own value."

15,000 MINERS TO STAY OUT.

Hope Given Up for Settling Ohio Strike, On Since April.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 9.—Hope of settling the strike of 15,000 coal miners in the eastern Ohio field, who have been out since April, when negotiations between miners and operators in the presence of government conciliators were finally broken off. The conference began January 28.

The strike has tied up eastern Ohio coal mines since last April.

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PRICES IN TOYLAND ALSO UP ON ACCOUNT OF WAR

Tin and Aluminum Playthings Especially Affected by Scarcity of Metal—But Great Variety Is Shown at Toy Fair at Broadway Central.

Some seventy manufacturers of toys are registered at the Broadway Central Hotel to attend the toy fair, which opened there Monday, and to look over a more varied display of German dolls, now made in America, than was ever sent from Germany before the war. They will compare notes about new playthings, boats, balls, dishes, wagons, miniature horses and what not, and will talk about the effect the war has had on the trade.

Robert H. McCready, who writes about playthings, and John J. Jordan of the Broadway Central talked nothing else yesterday but playthings for 1915. "There is no doubt," said Mr. McCready, "that prices of many German toys have been increased. It is natural that the war should cause an increase in the price of metal, especially of such materials as are used in the materials of war. This has caused a temporary halt in the manufacture of white tin and aluminum toys."

"We are unable to see the value of a European trip to buy toys, especially in view of the present difficulties of travel abroad. Most of the novelties produced in Germany for the coming year have been made at the suggestion of the representatives of the large American import houses. As a result it is more likely that a buyer would see more new things in New York at this toy fair than he would in the Leipzig fair."

Mr. McCready said Germany did about \$10,000,000 worth of business in toys with the United States before the war last year. The fair will continue for several weeks.

Announcement has been made that the ninth annual dinner of St. John's Old Boys Association is to be held at the Hotel Woodstock in West Forty-third street February 20. Morton of Port Washington, L. I. is chairman of the dinner committee.

In aid of the establishment and maintenance of schools for the children and night school for the grown folks in the Southern mountain districts a group of Southern women in New York will hold a Mardi Gras festival and dance in the Della Robbia room of the Vanderbilt on Shrove Tuesday, February 16. Miss Margaret Wilson is honorary

president of the association, and Mrs. James Harrison Dunwiddie has the dance in charge. Mrs. Hawkesworth is arranging many carnival features. Tickets, \$2, may be obtained at the hotel.

ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

Visitors From Other Cities Registered in New York.

Astor—Capt. Frank O. Whitlock, U. S. A.; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Tanssoco, Paris, France; F. M. Hatch and Miss H. Hatch, Honolulu; Mr. and Mrs. B. Minehan, Toronto.

Knickbocker—L. J. Waterbury, Toronto, Pa.; Oliver Morosco, Los Angeles; Mrs. F. L. Parker, Westfield, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Garson, Troy, N. Y.

Waldorf—Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Drexel-Biddle, Philadelphia; F. P. Chandler, Philadelphia; Mrs. A. J. McEltrney, Housessville, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Miller, Bridgeport, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Waddams, Oswego, N. Y.

Gotham—Dr. and Mrs. William Prall, Princeton, N. J.

Marlinque—Mr. and Mrs. S. Harris, Toronto; L. A. Norton, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; G. D. Carr, Pittsburg; W. J. Fitzmaurice, U. S. N.

Vanderbilt—Mrs. William Larnahan, Baltimore; Mr. and Mrs. M. Stanley Brown, Cleveland; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Westcott, Springfield, Ohio.

Collingwood—Fred G. Orr, South Portland, Me.; F. P. Bennett, Harrison, Me.; M. H. Terrill, Dallas, Tex.; Miss C. L. Judd, Syracuse, N. Y.

Marie Antoinette—W. H. Rohr, Philadelphia; Frank A. Smith, Harrisburg, Pa.; A. E. Yates, Berkeley, Cal.

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